



Forest County Potawatomi Community
P.O. Box 340, Crandon, Wisconsin 54520

March 27, 2007

Regina B. Schofield
Assistant Attorney General
United States Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
810 7th Street NW
Washington, DC 20531

Dear Ms. Schofield:

Thank you for convening the United States Department of Justice Tribal Training and Technical Assistance Sessions related to Tribal Justice and Safety, and the Tribal Consultation Sessions being conducted as part of this meeting. The Forest County Potawatomi Community of Wisconsin ("Potawatomi") appreciates the opportunity to participate in this consultation session with representatives of the United States Department of Justice.

The Potawatomi remain concerned that Native Americans living in this nation's reservation communities continue to be victims of violent crime at a rate two and one-half times that of the general population of the United States. This condition is unacceptable in a modern society and requires immediate action by not only tribal leaders, but also the federal government. It also requires respect for the sovereignty of this nation's tribal communities and full funding of programs designed to reduce criminal activity and criminal victimization in those communities.

In this consultation session the Potawatomi urge the United States Department of Justice to aggressively seek as set forth below to reduce criminal victimization in Indian Country and to respect the sovereignty of this nation's tribal communities:

- In July 2006, Congress enacted the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 ("Adam Walsh Act"). This law, which was passed with no tribal consultation and no notice, establishes a nationwide sex offender registry and notification system and gives tribes the option to either opt in to participation in a national registry or to accept criminal and jurisdiction of the various states. Significantly, Congress gave tribes governed by Public Law 280, such as the Potawatomi, no options and improperly extended state jurisdiction over criminal matters to the Adam Walsh Act, which is civil regulatory in nature. The Potawatomi hereby request that the United States Department of Justice immediately seek amendment to the Adam Walsh Act to repeal Section 127(a)(2)(A), which automatically places Public Law 280 jurisdiction tribes

under the jurisdiction of states for purposes of compliance with the Adam Walsh Act. All tribes, regardless of their status as Public 280 tribes, must be given the opportunity to exercise their sovereign right to implement sex offender registry and notification systems.

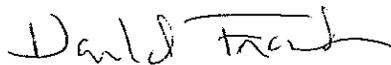
- Recent federal budgets have significantly reduced funding for programs designed to enhance public safety and reduce drug abuse on the nation's reservations. This is an unacceptable abdication of the federal government's trust responsibility to the tribes and it has had a significant detrimental impact on tribes' ability to establish and/or maintain programs which are designed to enhance public safety. The Potawatomi support the immediate restoration of full funding for tribal drug courts and related chemical dependency treatment programs and for tribal public safety programs, including programs to address domestic violence, suicide prevention and methamphetamine.
- The National Congress of American Indians ("NCAI") has made combating the devastating effects of methamphetamine one of its top priorities. The Potawatomi support the NCAI initiative and urge Congress to pass pending legislation intended to provide tribes access to adequate funding to fight methamphetamine in their communities. The Potawatomi also request that the United States Department of Justice actively support the passage of this proposed anti-methamphetamine legislation.
- The increase of drug activity throughout the nation and in the nation's tribal communities has resulted in a parallel increase in violent gang activity and gang-related drug dealing in Indian Country. The Potawatomi call upon the United States Department of Justice to assume a leadership role in providing fully-funded programs to combat violent gang activity in Indian Country.
- The Potawatomi support full funding for tribal public safety and judicial programs and also support the development of cooperative arrangements between tribal, public safety and judicial programs and comparable programs at the federal, state and local levels. The Potawatomi call upon the United States Department of Justice to assume a leadership role in the development of such tribal, federal, state and local cooperative public safety and judicial arrangements.
- Both the FBI and the Bureau of Indian Affairs have been incapable of developing reliable systems for gathering crime statistics in Indian Country. Similarly, the federal government has provided inadequate funding to support tribes developing such systems themselves. The ability of tribal, federal and state governments to address the crippling impact of crime in Indian Country is seriously undermined by the inadequate crime statistics currently being

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gathered. It is a sad fact that only in Indian Country are crime statistics obtained through surveys and anecdotes rather than through hard objective data. The Potawatomi call upon the United States Department of Justice to immediately develop a program for the effective gathering of crime statistics from all tribal communities, including those subject to state jurisdiction pursuant to Public Law 280.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. The Potawatomi look forward to the opportunity to work with the United States Department of Justice to enhance the public safety in all of Indian Country, including the Forest County Potawatomi Community of Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Harold Frank", written in a cursive style.

Harold Gus Frank
Tribal Chairman
Forest County Potawatomi Community